

REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the application.

CLAIMS

Claims 201-223, 230-231 and 236-238 have been allowed. By the above amendment, claims 224-225 and 233-234 have been amended. Claims 228-229, 232 and 235 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 239-242 have been added. It is to be noted that in amending the claims no new matter has been introduced, since clear support for the above amendments can be clearly found in the application as filed.

Support for currently amended claim 224 can be found in previously amended claim 224 and previously presented claim 228.

Support for amended claim 225 can be found in previously presented claim 225: such claim has been amended for clarity purposes only.

Support for amended claim 233 can be found in previously presented claim 233 and page 3 (paragraphs 43-48), page 6 (paragraphs 95-96), and page 7 (paragraphs 113 and 120) of the application as published.

Support for amended claim 234 can be found in previously presented claim 234: such claim has been amended for clarity purposes only.

Support for new claims 239-242 can be found at page 2 (paragraphs 25-31), page 3 (paragraphs 43, 46 and 47) and page 6 (paragraphs 93 and 96) of the application as filed.

Claim Rejections - U.S.C. 35 § 112

Claims 224-229 and 233-234 were rejected as being indefinite and not clear. By the above

amendments, such rejections have been overcome: the unclear wording has been rephrased, so that the amended claims clearly point out what the applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Rejections - U.S.C. 35 § 103

Claims 233-234 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brügemann et al. (PCT/EP88/00454) in view of Ikeda et al. (US 5,886,580). However, Brügemann et al. and Ikeda et al. do not show, even in combination with each other, the combination of technical features of currently amended claim 233. Therefore currently amended claim 233 is to be considered new and non-obvious over the prior art of record.

Amended claim 234 depends on claim 233 and includes therefore all the limitations of amended claim 233. Thus amended claim 234 is to be considered new and non-obvious as well.

Conclusion

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Applicant's counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

If any further fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. BUG-39439.

Respectfully submitted,
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